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NEAC

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Esch, *et al.*

(CIP of Appl. No.: 08/870,591)

Appl. No.: to be assigned

Filed: herewith

For: **Precipitated Silicas**

Art Unit: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

Atty. Dkt. 21123/282431

**Preliminary Amendment**

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

On the first page of the specification, after the title and before the section entitled "Field of the Invention," please add the following text:

**-- Cross Reference to Related Applications**

The present application is a continuation-in-part of application 08/870,591, filed on June 6, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. 08/594,327, filed on January 30, 1996, which is a division of U.S. 08/319,490, filed on October 7, 1994. The '490 application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 to German application P 44 27 137.9, filed on July 30, 1994, and to German application P 43 34 201.9, filed on October 7, 1993. --

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice.